

St. Joseph's College  
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# The Spirit

## What IS Occupy Wall Street?

By Gabrielle Hughes

Since early September, the population of Lower Manhattan has substantially grown, due to a flood of protestors laying grounds in the city's Financial District. Wall Street, and its adjacent alleys and parks, have been streaming with signs, protestors, and demonstrations, all echoing the political frustration of the thousands that are gathered.

New York's Financial District, particularly Wall Street, is synonymous with corporate wealth, as it houses some of the world's fundamental economic centers. The idea to "occupy" the neighborhood originated with Adbusters Media Group in July 2011. This Canadian-based organization suggested peaceful protests, demanding the government to formally separate money from politics. Subsequently, the idea snowballed, incorporating economic and social inequalities in relation to big business and politics.

With an assortment of reasons for congregation, the people engaged in these protests are varied in political backgrounds, but united in their stance that corruption exists in America. Illegal housing foreclosures, unnecessary bonuses for corporate executives, discrimination in the workforce, and an abundance of other claims have caused the occupying to occur. They believe corporations function only for profit, self-interest, and oppression; therefore it is

the mission of these activists to "restore democracy in America."

Over the course of the movement, support has rapidly increased, and the idea to occupy cities has spread globally. However, this added support has resulted in an upsurge of chaos. Blocking traffic, disorderly conduct, and resisting detainment have led to the arrests of hundreds of demonstrators. Police have used pepper spray to regain control, as people have gone as far as storming through barricades surrounding the New York Stock Exchange. Those encamped in New York have also started to venture outside of the Financial District, with marches occurring across the Brooklyn Bridge, and up to Times Square.

One of the largest burdens produced by the rallies has been placed on the Financial District's residents, as well as visiting tourists. Parks have become unusable, and the noise of the demonstrations can be heard within the apartments of local dwellers. Public buildings have been vandalized, subway lines are consistently being shut down, and police barricades that enclose Wall Street make navigating the street difficult for residents.

At the same time, many of the Financial District's inhabitants realize the significance of their location, allowing for the acceptance of the neighborhood's temporary occupiers. The message of the activists is certainly being heard by leaders of both government and big business, and the longer they stay, the harder the message will be driven.



Photo Credit: Zuri Terrell

OWS protesters gather in New York's Zuccotti Park.

## I Am the 99%: A Student's Perspective on OWS

By Antoinette Cammarano

Everyone's heard about it; some people have even participated in it. Occupy Wall Street has been all over the media since it began on September 17, 2011. This movement, which is taking place in the Financial District of New York City, aims to educate the people about the corruption that is obviously permeating our

government. These protestors are completely disgusted with the "Big Banks" and corporations in general. They believe that these two types of organizations are responsible for the financial crisis that the nation is in, and inherently responsible for the recession. The fact that one percent of the nation's population controls an impressively substantial amount of the nation's wealth has angered many, and I empathize with those who are frustrated.

One percent is not a large amount of people.

Therefore, the gap between the rich and the poor is greatly increasing. I completely agree with the protester's position. The people who fall within the one percentile run these "Big Banks" and corporations. Once they reach an old age, they'll be secure; they won't have to worry about paying their bills after retirement. However, the rest of us who aren't fortunate enough to make an obscene amount of money have to worry about our old age. These corporations are ruthless, and as long as they make their large amounts of money, they do not care how the rest of the people are doing financially.

Like the protesters, I also believe that these organizations are extremely undemocratic. In a country that is supposed to promote fairness for all, many areas continue to lack balance. One percent of the country's population owning most of the wealth does not leave much for the rest of us. Those who make more money should be required to pay higher taxes simply because they are able to. The burden of high taxes should not fall upon the shoulders of those people who do not earn a high income. Lower classes already face many hardships because they are in a country that places

high values on consumption of extremely costly goods and services. Instead of complaining about paying higher taxes, those who fall in the one percent should accept their place in the tax system as those who should bear the heaviest burdens. When a person makes so much money, it should be their duty to pay more taxes. They literally can afford to. Our tax system is a progressive one, in which those who make more money pay higher taxes, but in reality those people end up paying less. On paper, our tax system looks great, but in actuality, with all the tax credits available to people (such as deductions), those who make less are usually paying more.

Movements such as this one on Wall Street are taking place throughout the world. Even across our own country, there are similar protests happening. Corporations are ruining the country as a whole. They are hogging all the wealth that is available, causing the ninety-ninth percentile to suffer and be uncertain about our future. Is that fair to us? Not at all. Humans are inherently greedy, but there comes a point where everyone should attempt to consider the well being of all.

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## The "Right" Way to Occupy

By Mike Panico

The Occupy Wall Street movement has been making headlines, and as college students, we need to be aware of it. Let me preface my article by saying this: I am sure some of the protestors are actually nice people, who care about what they believe in: the banks and Wall Street failed us, forcing the economy to fail, and all the government cares about is the rich. The other people are these liberal-trust-fund-living-lazy-loons, who have never worked a day in their life, and are trying to keep it that way by creating a welfare state in America (more so than it already is).

What are they trying to convey? The idea that capitalism is bad. The protestors have a general consensus that rich people are awful, and money needs to be taken away from them and given to those less fortunate. This is anti-capitalist, and is exactly what these protestors, and most college students, want.

As my favorite contender for the Republican nomination Herman Cain (yes, his 9-9-9 plan DOES work) has said: "Don't blame Wall Street, don't blame the big banks, if you don't have a job and you're not rich, blame yourself!" Let me ask all of my wonderful readers this question: What exactly did these bankers and Wall Street people do that was illegal? Key word: illegal. Was it wrong? Sure, you can argue that. But you cannot arrest people based on nothing that was illegal. If anything, these protestors should be protesting Barack Obama and his failed policies, in addition to all the other policies that led to this crisis. Blame should not solely be placed on the people who just played the game. And really, if any of us had a ton of money, would we really be willing to voluntarily pay more taxes? I think not.

All these protestors have done is cause chaos and create problems; they are solving nothing. Are the policies changed? No. This movement also prides itself on the fact that they are against the big lobbyists who are trying to get politicians to give

them their way: a.k.a. Republicans are bad, and only like big business. But the fact is that if you look at Obama's top donors, they are all from Wall Street (Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs)! Furthermore, the top political donors for the past 30 years: UNIONS (and they donate to the Democrats. Conservatives like myself despise unions. Sorry, I don't want to pay for someone else's dental care). The teacher's union is one of the biggest contributors. I am probably the only future teacher who hates the teachers' union.

The fact is that these loons at Occupy Wall Street are protesting the wrong thing. Protest the President, who fails to change these policies, not the people who just followed them. Should Wall Street get bailed out? Of course not. But big government is not the solution to big government. That's socialism. Capitalism is the answer, but the majority of these protestors want to live off the government and rich people. They do not want to work hard for their living, which is what America has been about since her founding.



# Apathy: Just How Much Do We Care?

By Gabrielle Hughes

As future leaders of the world, thinking and formulating ideas about global issues should come naturally to the college-age population. Eventually, it will solely be us making decisions, impacting the generations to come. But are we truly in touch with what is going on around us? Do young adults actually hold an interest in the world's big-picture issues?

Feelings of apathy in relation to universal matters seem to be commonplace among many college students today. The young population is often disengaged with reality, narrowing their attention to only what is happening in their individual lives. It has become an exertion to look beyond one's own social bubble, and discover the global concerns that the world is facing.

At the same time, there is a constant prevalence of the media strewing current events. It seems as though one would have to go out of his or her way to avoid hearing about what is happening in the world. There are a million issues at hand, and exploring them should be uncomplicated and undemanding.

For instance, social networking websites have allocated instant availability of the news. Facebook and Twitter are predominantly used by the youth, but exposure to worldly stories can only occur through one's own will. A particular media outlet must be "liked" or "followed" in order for reports to be streamed into newsfeeds. Additionally, while these websites allow for communities to be formed in support of a cause, they often produce little action. Joining a group or signing a petition may make someone feel like they have contributed, but

in most cases, these activities have little impact.

Even when college students are paying attention to the news, interest shown is hardly ever in relation to big-picture issues. News stories that stimulate the minds of young adults are generally the products of popular culture. Instead of showing an interest in which GOP candidate will get nominated in next year's Presidential race, someone of this

generation would most likely be more concerned about what happened on the last episode of "Gossip Girl".

Furthermore, there are some young people that consider being informed a burden. Looking at the big picture can be intimidating as they begin to realize their place in society. The numerous problems that the world faces often trigger feelings of being

out of reach and unable to help. Collectively viewing these issues is simply too overwhelming for some.

These claims, of course, are generalizations; there are certainly many young individuals who take part in making a global impact. College students have played a key role in Occupying Wall Street, gathering for a variety of reasons to support the cause. From protesting increases in tuition rates to promoting environmental awareness, young adults have been educating themselves with the country's policies, and speaking out against what they find unfavorable.

College students were also vital in passing of the Health Care Reform last year. Many became distraught as they were dropped from their parent's health insurance plan after completing higher education. This led to protests, which garnered the attention of politicians, who eventually voted for the bill to pass. Now, college graduates have an extended period to find their own insurance, without the fear of going uncovered.

The young adults that are engaged with current events tend to have a lot to say about the ideas that are being passed around. Some even go as far as expressing their views just to initiate arguments. It can be said that the most meaningful and memorable conversations derive from politics, religion, and other issues of substance.

Whether or not you classify yourself as someone that thinks globally, taking an interest in broader subjects expands horizons and reveals the actualities of the world. Even if you're not completely up to date on current events, it is always good to have a general sense of what is happening. Realistically, concern should be expressed for the sake of knowledge, and to bring to light the issues that people face today.



Photo Credit: Zuri Terrell

Do SJC students care about issues outside of their own personal world view, such as the OWS movement? Should they?

## Remembering MLK on the Mall

By Nerisa Bethel

The sun shined brightly on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, October 16th, a well-deserved respite from August's earthquake and hurricane. This venue housed a star-studded event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The day was devoted to the dedication of a new statue of Dr. King, a thirty-foot tall memorial, and the crowd was engulfed with emotion. Speeches ranged from very moving to political, and some were even comedic. It was a memorable day for a truly revolutionary figure.

The sea of spectators applauded excitedly as Martin Luther King's siblings gave forceful and passionate speeches about the future of our country. The all-too familiar roars for their brother seemed to spill out of the crowd, as they spoke about all that he fought for, and how much we, too, needed to fight.

After the family, other unrelated presenters took the stage. There were a number of reverends at the mall. Jesse Jackson, Joe Lowery, and the unforgettable Al Sharpton were all in attendance, and it was Reverend Sharpton who exclaimed, "It's not about Obama; it's about your

Mama!" His speech was one of the most exciting, as he exalted shouts of praise to Martin Luther when at the microphone.

Congressman John Lewis, the only surviving speaker from Dr. King's famous "I have a Dream" speech, delivered an emotive response. It was poignant to see how he was speaking in honor of the man he stood by almost fifty years before. Ambassador Andrew Young brought up a rather interesting point that despite his booming voice, Dr. King was a man of only 5'7". He might have always felt people were looking down on him. But now, he is thirty feet tall, and everyone is looking up at him.

Adults were not the only ones that paid tribute. A 12-year-old actress named Amanda Stenberg reminded everyone about the four young girls her age who died tragically in a 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. She explained how they might have died young, but their spirits live on today on in children like her.

As the event came to a close, President Obama delivered a very deep, slightly political, and very stirring speech. Finally, the memorial ended as the one and only Stevie Wonder serenaded the Tommy Hilfiger-capped spectators with "Happy Birthday."

## Start the Fight

By Roseangela Fracchiolla

St. Joseph's College has a reputation for introducing its students to informative and cultural experiences. On Wednesday, October 12th, the latest Presidential Lecture featured Joseph C. Wilson, one of the most notable speakers SJC has ever hosted.

Joseph C. Wilson is known for his historic career in international relations. He has worked with five presidents: Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton. Wilson served as acting United States ambassador during Operation Desert Shield. He is the last American official to confront Saddam Hussein before the start of the Gulf War. Additionally, he openly challenged the Bush Administration on its justification for entering war, prompting the writing of his "New York Times" op-ed piece entitled "What I Didn't Find in Africa."

Among these impressive credentials, Wilson happens to be an effective public speaker. This intrigued the audience, as he began to move away from politics and into the bigger picture. Although there were unintentional moments of pretense during his speech, it is to be expected. After all, this is a man who has earned his place as a pillar of international affairs in our country.

As he described his many experiences, his mantra became clear to the audience: be a part of the process. It is fitting that Mr. Wilson not only took the time to speak to college students, but St. Joe's students in particular. Our small liberal arts college encourages its students to discover their passion, in addition to just "finding a job".

So what is the first step in the proverbial fight all college students face? You know the one, the fight to find your most suitable life path. Mr. Wilson's advice: find the one thing that you are truly interested in. If there

## Can You Afford Four More?

By Robert Jurman

With President Obama's first term coming to an end, we are beginning to take a closer look at the next Presidential election, especially at the Republican Candidates. We will all have to ask ourselves this question: Can we afford four more years of a Barack Obama Presidency? I tell you now that this is the most critical election of our lives. Sounds cliché, but this time it is true. Will we prosper, or will we continue to falter?

The answer is that we cannot afford four more. Let me run the numbers by you. This year the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the Obama fiscal year 2011 budget plan will double, and then triple the debt from now all the way through 2020. This would be the highest debt increase of any American president in history. Now, let's compare President Bush's national spending to President Obama's national spending. In 8 years of the Bush Administration, 3 trillion dollars were spent. In only 3 years of the Obama Administration, 14.5 trillion dollars have been spent. What did they spend it on? Stimulus packages and bailouts for big banks. Obama is for the little guy? Where was the middle class bailout?

These useless projects that were meant to put people to work with 'shovel ready' jobs only left President Obama to admit, "Shovel ready wasn't as 'shovel' ready as we had thought..." But if he had just taken a history course about the Great Depression, he would've known that. These facts are the undeniable proof that Barack Obama's failed policies are going to leave a tremendous financial burden on our children and grandchildren. Furthermore, the CBO is predicting health care and Medicare costs to skyrocket all the way up to 2080. So by a literal and statistical standpoint, no, we cannot afford four more years of Barack Obama.

Now, there are many people saying, "Just give him a chance, he's trying to fix things." I say to them, no, we should not allow him to get his act together. If we give him four more years, we will continue on this road of spending and bailouts, eventually leading to another depression. The statistics are all aiming to-

wards it. We cannot afford to give another chance to a man who won't admit that his policies have been wrong, won't consider a plan that is different than his own political dogma, and won't yield to work with a Republican on any situation. Instead of working with Republicans, he is in full campaign mode, throwing mud at the opposition to get re-elected. So I say to you America, we do not need more politics, we do not need more rhetoric, and we do not need a President who only knows how to campaign well. We need a strong leader, one who will stand up for America, who will be able to create bold solutions to fix our economy and our outlook around the world. We cannot afford more anymore Obama.



Photo Credit: Maggie Smith

Time's about to expire on the president, writes Robert Jurman.

is not a group that fits your cause, create one. There is great possibility in knowing that not every road is paved in front of us. Mr. Wilson encouraged us to see the bar and raise it; we must remember we have the ability to create the bar, and set the standard.

As college students, it is difficult to predict the future. The world is there for the taking, but success lies in making diligent choices, pacing yourself, and realizing that every option is not necessarily for you. St. Joseph's students were able to see a firsthand success story. Mr. Wilson is a strong

contributor to society, yet what makes his story extraordinary is that he found the courage to follow his passion. This is the greatest lesson that students learned through Mr. Wilson's speech. Having a passion for something, and to pursue what naturally comes easiest to you, are two very different things. It is encouraging to see a man who was once sitting in our seats, possibly hit a few bumps along the way; ultimately, he found his position behind the podium. Mr. Wilson left our students with an important tool for success that resonates: Get in the arena and start the fight.



# From 5 CENTS to \$2.25: What is going on here MTA?

By Tyrell Paul

Imagine if it only cost five cents to ride the bus or subway. If this were possible, everyone would take public transportation rather than drive to their destinations. This is how little it used to cost to ride the transit system in New York City back in the early 1900s.

In other areas of the world like Egypt and Mexico, the transit fare is currently under one dollar. Unfortunately that is not the case today for New York City. Straphangers have no other choice but to endure paying the current bus and subway fare, which is \$2.25. However, there is one question that remains: why is the MTA always so quick to raise the fare but yet the services that are being provided to customers are in the toilet? Where is our money really going? The trains and buses are frequently breaking down, the entire transit system isn't as clean as it should

be, and service is being cut which means a longer commute for many passengers.

There are probably more than a dozen reasons why the MTA keeps raising their fare. The only two good explanations are that they are either not spending their money properly or there are employees working within the system in many positions that the MTA probably does not need. They are putting up more billboard ads than usual, there are countdown clocks in almost every station that tells how long it will take for the next train to arrive at the station, and they are also making new subway cars as well as buses. So the MTA obviously has cash hidden somewhere if they are doing all of these things.

The MTA keeps on claiming that the government is the reason why they are frequently raising fares, and maybe they

are right. Even if that was the case, the MTA should always make sure that they are managing their money properly or else the fare will end up being \$3.00 or more; nobody is going to want to pay that amount of cash. At the end of the day it is not "fare" to New Yorkers. As of right now for the year 2013, the MTA does plan on raising the fare from \$2.25 to \$2.50, and it is possible that they will put the new fare into effect sooner. The way that this economy is now, no one will be able to survive another fare hike, unless their name is Donald Trump.

As much as we hate it when the MTA raises the fare, unfortunately the decision is out of our hands. We just have to hope and pray that it doesn't happen in the future.



Photo Credit: Paul Martin Eldridge

Just how many more fare increases can NYC's legion of straphangers take?

## Word Around Campus: Are you the 99 percent?

Joe Mendez -  
Sophomore



Darn tootin! I'm part of the 99% and proud of it.

Melissa Morrice -  
Sophomore



Yes, but I think Occupy Wall Street is pointless. It's not accomplishing anything.

Matthew Walsh -  
Senior



What's that?

Anthony Grasso -  
Senior



I'm part of the 99%, but I don't agree with some of their tactics.

Maciej Sadowski -  
Senior



No, I'm part of the 1%. I decide my future.

Brianna Gaines -  
Junior



I'm part of the 99%, but I will be a part of the 1%.

Danielle Endes -  
Junior



Yes, of course I am part of the 99%. I sympathize with the cause, but I don't think I could ever go down there and join them myself.

Michelle Chionchio -  
Sophomore



Yes, I am part of the 99%. I don't think it is right for 1% of the population to control everything.

Brian Fitzgerald -  
Freshman



Yes, but I really don't understand the whole Occupy Wall Street thing.

Jenesis Torres -  
Freshman



Yes, I am part of the 99% and I agree with a lot of the things Occupy Wall Street is doing, but I think that many people in one location is a ticking time bomb.



## SJC's Favorite Thanksgiving Eats



By Christa Sullivan

Thanksgiving food is usually pretty standard across the board: turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, potatoes, etc., but the way everyone prepares it and the reason why everyone likes it are completely different. I interviewed a few students to get an idea of what Thanksgiving food they look most forward to:

Frank Grisanzio loves his mom's sweet potatoes (how cute). She puts marshmallows on top and he says they are the most delicious part of Thanksgiving.

Kesha Washington tells me that candied yams are all she wants... and maybe some stuffing.

Kelly Olsen's favorite is homemade cranberry sauce with a twist. Her family adds orange peels and nutmeg. She says it's the perfect topping for turkey.

Jessica Podhaisky says "it's not Thanksgiving without stuffing." She makes hers with meat, raisins, bread crumbs, and all sorts of spices-- it's different every year.

Elvis Diaz will not have Thanksgiving without "pernil," which is pork in Spanish. It combines Spanish influences with an American tradition. When I asked him why he loved it he said, "it's so good you can't say anything."

Jessica Panora enjoys turkey with carrot sauce. It's unlike the ordinary Thanksgiving gravy or cranberry sauce usually used, making it a more unique complement to the turkey.

Ian Duff wants ham and mac & cheese on Thanksgiving; those two things make the meal for him.

Joey Chuisano's favorite part is candy corn: I guess everyone has their preferences!

My personal favorite would have to be the candied sweet potatoes, too. Like Frank's mom, my mom also puts marshmallows on them, plus brown sugar and cinnamon, and then bakes it. I'm also a huge fan of anything with pumpkin: pumpkin pie, pumpkin lattes, pumpkin bread, etc. But then there's the stuffing, and the corn bread, and the turkey... I'm just a big supporter of Thanksgiving food.

Everyone celebrates Thanksgiving differently and has their favorite traditional foods. Whether you crave the turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes or something else, just about anything is welcome on Thanksgiving and that helps make it such a unique holiday... well, at least when it comes to food!

## From the Desks of the Presidents

SJC Pres. S. Elizabeth Hill joins SGA Pres. Catherine Muldoon for her monthly column.

Special Guest Columnist:  
S. Elizabeth A. Hill, C.S.J., J.D.

As we begin the 95th year of the great history of St. Joseph's College, I am happy to share some thoughts with you about the state of the College and some of our plans for the future, which we hope will be another 95 years, at least!

I am sure many of you have noticed the bustle in the halls and the crowds in Evodio's Place and the auditorium, and I want to say how happy we are that campus life is much more, well, lively! With the increase in enrollment, we have been able to introduce new faculty, add more programs, and provide additional extracurricular activities...all with the goal of providing you with the most well-rounded education possible at the most reasonable tuition.

We are always conscious of the



Photo Credit: Spirit Staff

St. Joseph College's two presidents came together to participate in a special forum addressing concerns of the college community.

need to stay as close to the curve in technology as we can, and under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth McCollum, our Chief Information Officer,

many positive changes are being made. The network is being upgraded, wireless access is being expanded throughout the campus, a portal is being created that will give each person access to his or her own schedule and other personal information, and other improvements are being planned. We pledge to continue our efforts to

enhance and update our academic and administrative systems, to enable us to serve you even better.

"With the increase in enrollment, we have been able to introduce new faculty, add more programs, and provide additional extracurricular activities."

A major project that is soon to begin is the construction of the gymnasium on the site of the present student parking lot. We hope to have a groundbreaking

sometime in late October. The building is designed to satisfy the criteria for LEEDS Certification, which means that particular attention has been paid to issues of sustainability and concern for

the environment.

It will be a beautiful addition to our campus, and it will contain a standard size basketball/volleyball court, a weight room, a fitness center, a dance studio, locker rooms, coaches' offices, etc. Parking for about 100 cars will be below the gym, which will take about 18 months to build. During that time students will park at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and a shuttle will bring people back and forth to campus.

Thanks to everyone in the College community who has contributed to our success in the past...and will contribute to our success in the future!

# The Great SJC Smoke-Out

By Catherine Muldoon

What we as the SGA have failed to realize in the past is that Senate makes up a very small percentage of our student body. And while events from clubs are great for the school and students in promoting campus life, social responsibility, and community service, students have other desires that we need to meet. Everyone has some idea of what could be improved on campus to make time spent here more enjoyable. I would like to know what people are interested in improving, and how I can help.

One of the ways I think we can improve our campus is to pass a smoke-free campus policy. If you can imagine, it was once acceptable to light up a cigarette in the Red Room, and when a policy was first introduced to eliminate smoking indoors, people thought it would never be passed. Today we would never even think of smoking indoors because our culture has changed and adjusted to the new policies. Given all that we know about the health risks related to smoking, I think

it is only a matter of time before all educational institutions and businesses are completely smoke-free.

There are numerous factors that contribute to a smoke-free campus movement. Colleges have had policies restricting tobacco use on their campuses for decades. Typical campus policies about restricting tobacco use or smoking at building entrances and exits and or designated areas are not enforced. This is true of our campus as well. There is clear evidence that exposure to second-hand smoke is a health risk. 50,000 people die each year from health issues related to second-hand smoke, and even brief exposure can be harmful. Students should be prepared to enter increasingly smoke-free workplaces. A smoke-free policy would promote St. Joseph's

College as a leader in public health policy, and it would complement our institutional sustainability efforts. According to the American Non-Smokers' Rights Foundation, currently 530 U.S. colleges and universities have adopted 100% smoke-free policies. This includes 11 institutions in New York as well as the 23 CUNY campuses.

There is no doubt in my mind that there is a need for a smoke-free policy on our campus. The difficult aspect is developing the policy to be effective. After weeks of research, I have made my peace with the fact that this is not something I will see go into effect while I am a student. It takes years to develop and implement change in institutional policy, but I will be more than satisfied if I can initiate the process. We need time to develop a policy that is effective for

our unique environment, as well as time to educate people about the policy, and the reasons for adopting it. Signs would need to be posted explaining the policy, and they must be visible everywhere from our website to our admission applications. We would have to specify that the policy applies to all members of the campus including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Who would enforce the policy, especially at difficult times like evenings and weekends? How do we enforce the policy on the city streets that run through our campus? What are the consequences for not adhering to the policy? Would there be a monetary fine?

These are all questions that I do not have the answers for. With approval from Senate and Sr. Elizabeth, I am in the process of setting up a committee consisting of Senate members, and volunteers from the faculty, staff, and administration. Together, this committee will further investigate how to make the policy work for our campus.

"Colleges have had policies restricting tobacco use on their campuses for decades."



# FREE FOOD!!!!

By Kristen McMaster

It's 12:35 and the rush of students are finally ready to enjoy Common Hour, have lunch and relax. But it isn't the cafeteria that these students are piling into. These students are on their way to a college event and they seem to let their nose guide them. As they reach their destination you can hear joy or disappointment over what food is being served, but for the most part all you really hear is: "FREE FOOD!"

Why has food become the dominant aspect at college events? Are we that hungry, or that desperate for attendees? We all know that food draws people to events, but it's free food that really hits the spot. In my four years at St. Joseph's I have only heard a few speakers begin their event without commenting on the amount of food at the event. Sr. Margaret was even known for her "soda can opening" warning at the beginning of events. I understand that at any other college free food or even any food at events is few and far between, but since when has the chance to get a free lunch trumped the opportunity to learn something or have fun? Students treat free food at St. Joseph's as gold such

that events require guards at the doors so that students won't get food and leave. This has become completely necessary since the school culture for events has centered on free food.

Is it fair that clubs and offices put in their own time and effort to create an amazing event only to have students "dine and dash"? But in actuality students have paid for this food that they are "stealing", and they are supplementing not just the food. Almost everything at events has been underwritten by Student Activity Fees. So why won't students just try and get everything out of what's being offered, and are clubs helping to change this on-campus culture?

As Student Government Treasurer I see how clubs spend their money and what they feel is the best use of their club budget. The first question they always ask at budget meetings is, "How much food can we afford?" Club executive boards always have food on their minds because they see it as the driving factor for attendance. They reason that once students come in and see the good food, their attention will be drawn to the other aspects of the events.

There are exceptions, of course. There are some events where food isn't the main reason for attending. Sometimes it's extra credit, and of course pure interest in what's being offered, but sometimes even the chance for free food isn't enough to pull people inside. Junior Cassandra Guerrier says, "I think that the most important part of an event is the message that is actually being conveyed by the speaker. I understand how distracting the idea of 'free' food is,

especially when an abundance of people show up to an event, only to leave right after they get food. However, I do feel like the food can be the initial attractor, so long as the event is interesting." Senior and CAB Program Director Jason Rong says, "After one semester here, I've become very accustomed to what I call 'The St. Joseph's Way', where there are always events with meals included. This has become such a custom in the school to the extent where students are conditioned to expect lunch during events. Which brings me to the conclusion that food definitely is a significant factor in attracting students." As the importance of food at events only increases, Assistant to the Dean of Students Sherrie Van Arnam asks, "Do you think that the Student Activities Fee should be raised to offset the rising cost of food at Common Hour events?"

While students are satisfied that there is an option to eat at almost all the events at the college, they may not be happy with the type of food. Most people would say "stop complaining, it's free food, just eat it", but if the students are in agreement about food being one of the major aspects that draw higher attendance it only makes sense to cater to all types of appetites. When there is an event you can almost bet that there are either sandwiches or wraps. Then there are your special events with pizza, Chinese food, or if you're lucky, Italian food. But where are the options for the students who would like to eat healthy or students who don't eat meat? Oh right, they have that one tray of food with the less-than satisfying-vegetable wraps, lo mein, or even better, tuna on some sort of

bread.

The rest of the student body is really no better off. There are trays of fried ravioli, mozzarella sticks, and anything else that can fit into a deep fryer. So after piles of fried everything and a basket of candy, should St. Joseph's move toward healthier food? Junior Mike Panico says, "I am totally against this push towards healthy food. I feel like there should be options for both. If someone wants to tell me those fried ravioli are bad, I don't care, 'cause they taste amazing." Conversely, senior Diana Kessel says, "So many of us HATE the fried food. It alienates a big group of people." In a world of growing heart disease and obesity, should St. Joseph's be adding to those epidemics?

The bottom line is that events are there for students and the students want to eat and have fun. Senior Crystal Tejada puts it best: "It's all about the food and entertainment! We're in class all day, so it's nice to spend Common Hour watching a cultural event, like the Hispanic Awareness Club's recent event with the Hispanic Music, or to just relax and 'party' at CAB's 50s Party." Senior Tommy Agostino sums it all up by saying, "Keep the students entertained, and they might even come if there is no food being served. But of course, food only helps."

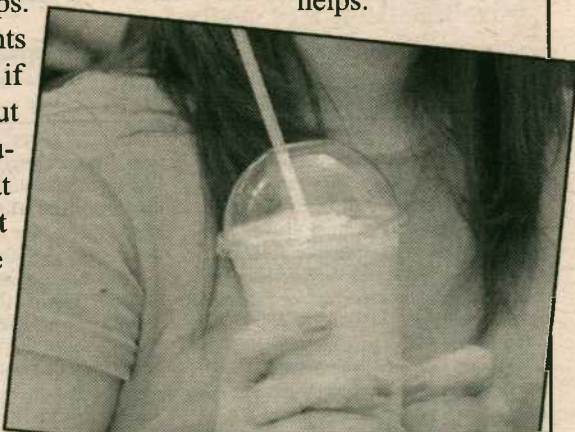
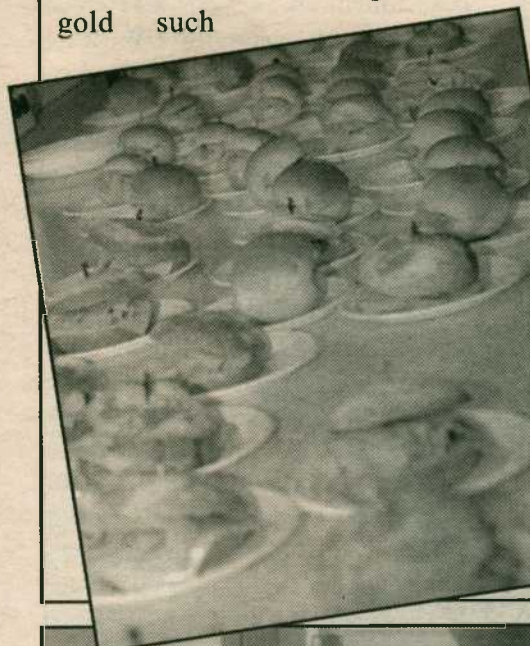


Photo Credits: Kayla Johnson, Robert Napolitano



## Restaurant Review

### When Paris meets Brooklyn, Baguetteaboutit!

By Roseangela Fracchiolla

There is no denying the recent popularity of DeKalb Avenue. As St. Joseph's students we are fortunate enough to be a few steps away from this popular hotspot. DeKalb Avenue is comprised of trendy cafes, a variety of restaurants and quaint little shops. Among these is the newest addition—Baguetteaboutit!

Located on 270 Vanderbilt Avenue, this Bakery Café prides itself on bringing a fusion of "Paris meets Brooklyn" to Fort Greene. With menu selections such as French Onion Soup, Croquet Monsieur, and Salad Niçoise, you are sure to be transported to un petit café on the Champs-Élysées in no time. So much so, that it is frequented by many French costumers looking for a taste of home.

But what would Baguetteaboutit be without the Brooklyn? This café is for New Yorkers as well. Where else could you find "Who youuz callin a Jerk," a jerk chicken sandwich with grilled fresh vegetables, lettuce, tomato, and mayo on a freshly baked

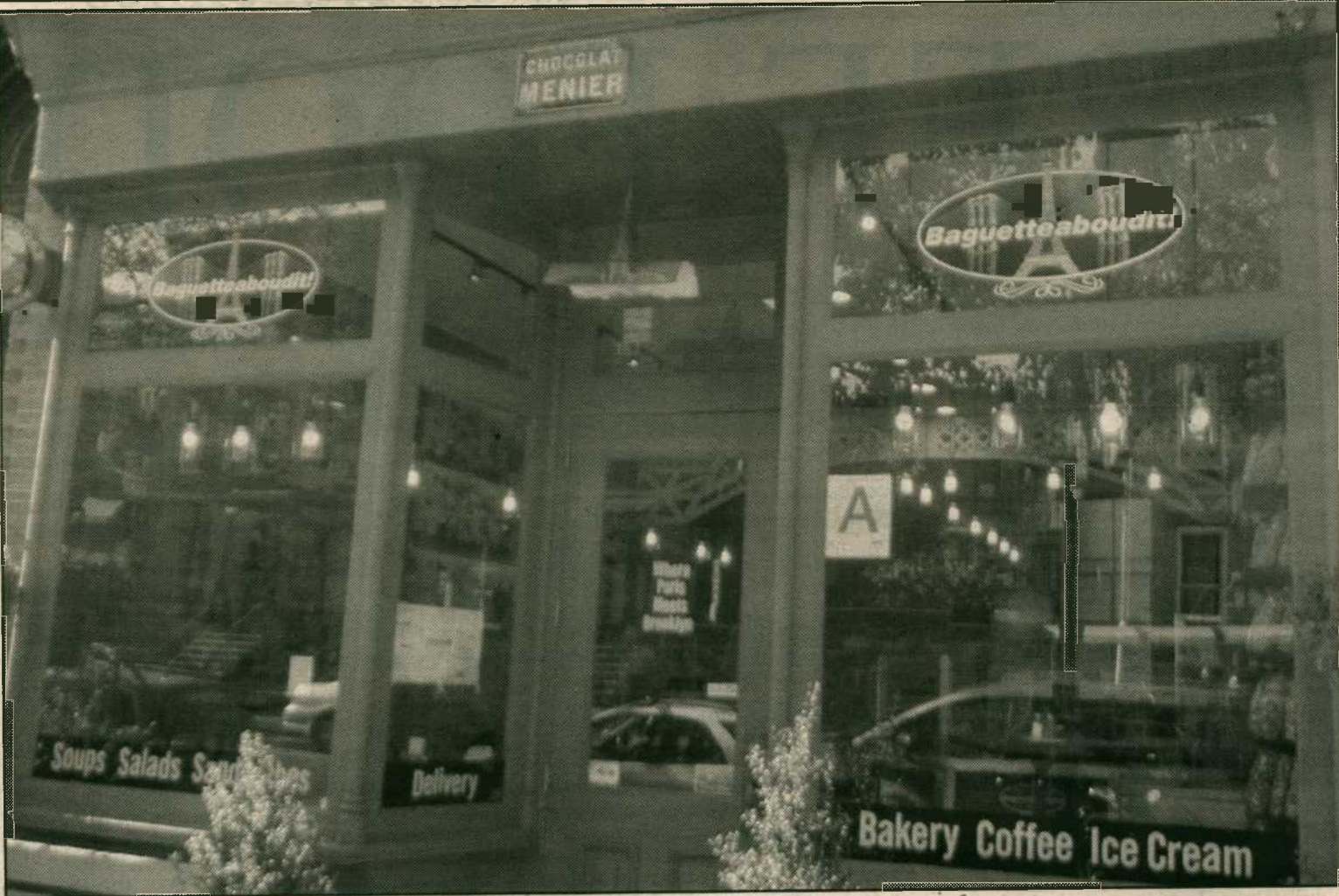


Photo Credit: Danielle Rothschild

Coffee? Croissant? Bagel? Fugetaboutit! (That means they have those things.)

baguette? Or the "Kids menu" selections that are fit for the kid in all of us. Here you can find the Nutterbutteraboutit- Peanut Butter layered with chocolatey nutella, or a classic: the Fluffernutter- Peanut butter and gobs of marshmallow fluff all served on their freshly baked breads. The café offers a true taste of New York by incorporating local products such as mouth-wateringly delicious ice cream from our very own Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory,

Brooklyn Egg creams, and a fan-favorite Chocolate soda.

Here is the secret to the success of this new place: the prices! They most certainly offer great quality items for a student friendly price, with sandwiches ranging from \$6.49-\$7.99, and salads ranging from \$5.99-\$8.89. You can even have a soup or salad and sandwich combination for \$6.99.

The greatest part of Baguetteaboutit is their gorgeous coffee bar. Here you can find fresh

baked "Goodz" such as muffins, scones, croissants (chocolate and almond as well,) and cranberry twists. For those on-the-go, they serve fresh baked bagels and flavored cream cheeses. For health conscious college students trying to fight the freshman fifteen you can pick up fresh squeezed juice to start the morning. The single greatest gift a college student can ask for is affordable, good quality coffee (without the pretentious glares when you realize

that small is actually not a human sized beverage.) Baguetteaboutit offers the most for your money without losing the great taste of quality coffee.

The ambiance screams Brooklyn with its exposed brick and New York accents both decorative and spoken. Yet the laid-back, comforting European flare allows customers to sit back enjoy a good meal, or even just a light snack. Whatever you want, faguetteaboutit, they got it!

## Meet the Muppets

A frog, a pig, a bear, and a whatever are ready for their comeback.

By Trey Norwood

Multitudes of people, bands, movies, and shows in popular culture come and go. Some have a large impact, while others die with a whimper. Certain things from the past gain cult followings and experience resurgence, but none have had such a dedicated fan base or as immense of an impact on pop culture as the Muppets have.

The Muppets became popular in the 70's through Jim Henson's "The Muppet Show". This British variety show quickly gained notoriety due to its broad humor, aimed at both children and adults. Famous guest stars and bands would either perform, or be in skits, drawing audiences in for every episode. The show was so popular there went on to be multiple movies starring the Muppets throughout the years. However, as time progressed, and when Jim Henson passed away, the Muppets lost a lot of steam, both in popularity and quality.

But what some people don't realize is what else Jim Henson had a hand in, and just how influential he and his puppets were. For example, most people under the age of 30 probably don't know that Henson's initial success was

from "Sesame Street", and that the Kermit the Frog we all recognize today, not Henson's first prototype, made his debut there. This allowed him to create "The Muppet Show", "Fraggle Rock", "The Dark Crystal", and "Labyrinth".

With the success of these shows and movies, Henson then founded The Jim Henson Foundation, The Jim Henson Company, and Jim Henson's CreatureShop (co-founded by Frank Oz, the voice and puppeteer of Yoda from the "Star Wars" films). Jim Henson's Creature Shop produces movies and creates puppets, or Creature Effects as they are credited in their respective films and television shows: the live action "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: Secret of the Ooze", "Dr. Dolittle" (the 1998 version starring Eddie Murphy), "Babe", "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (2005), and "Where the Wild Things Are".

The Muppets have also influenced people and other forms of entertainment in pop culture today. Kanye West planned on using Creature Shop puppets for his Glow in the Dark Tour in 2008. West even posted pictures

on his official blog around that expressing how excited he was to work with the Shop, but the puppets were never used. The popular Tony Award winning Broadway musical "Avenue Q" uses puppets similar to the Muppets. Jason Segel, writer and star of "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and co-star on the TV show "How I Met Your Mother", is clearly influenced by the Muppets. At the end of "Forgetting Sarah Marshall", Jason Segel's character is seen performing in a musical that he has written with puppets similar to Muppets. On top of that, Segel is a co-writer and co-star of the upcoming Muppets film that will be released through Walt Disney Pictures this Thanksgiving.

The Muppets have been slowly making their return through guest appearances on late night talk shows, the occasional TV special, and even their own channel on YouTube with some of the videos being scripted by Jason Segel. A video of the Muppets performing Bohemian Rhapsody has gotten 23 million views alone, showing that the Muppets have been greatly missed, but that they also never really left.



Photo Credit: Zuri Terrell

Get ready for the Muppets to fly back into your life.

## The Rise of Dubstep

By Cassandra Guerrier

Normally, when one thinks of an underground music scene, the names of Britney Spears, Eve, Snoop Dog and Rihanna do not come to mind. However, these well-known artists have played a huge part in incorporating the genre of dubstep into mainstream music culture. With beats that are heavily loaded with bass, sub-bass, and drum lines, dubstep has recently made the transition from European raves to American homes.

Originating in South London in the late 1990's, dubstep didn't make an appearance in the U.S. until the early 2000's. It is sometimes mistaken for techno because both are mainly comprised of instrumentals with little or no vocals. While both genres fall into the electronic dance music category, they have differing qualities that define them. To be specific: techno, whose origin can be traced back to Detroit, Michigan in the late 1980's, focuses more on the use of synthesizers and drum machines. On the other hand, dubstep contains an irregular drum pattern that is known as 2-step, bass drops,

and breakbeats. A bass drop refers to when a song's bass line stops, or breaks away from the original beat, and then continues on.

Moreover, dubstep didn't explode in the States until British radio singles, which consistently and methodically climbed the UK music charts, made their way overseas. For instance, Skream, one of the most famous producers in the dubstep genre, created a remix to British electropop duo La Roux's "In For the Kill". This remix became an instant hit in both the UK and the U.S., further bridging the gap between underground and mainstream. A few other famous dub-

step producers/artists include Skrillex, and Deadmau5.

Furthermore, when dubstep began to trend in the U.S., it underwent a few key changes. One of these is the inclusion of what has been deemed 'wobbles'. These consist of mid-tempo, dark, almost metallic sounds. Because this was not originally characteristic of the genre, a schism between longtime fans and new listeners occurred.

Dubstep has become a popular music genre among today's college student. SJC student Adriana Grecco said, "It's good to know the version of 'In For the Kill' that I

like is the dubstep one. [You] learn something new everyday." Additionally, when asked about her views on dubstep, student Erin McHale replied, "The music is just freeing, something you can just jump to and go crazy over. There's no set step to it."

Today, many are turning to dubstep in an attempt to express themselves both musically and artistically. Whether it will bring rise to new genres or remain as nothing more than a trend is up to its audience, old and new, to decide.



# Is 3D Done?

By Trey Norwood

Recently it seems like Hollywood has been obsessed with releasing films in the third dimension. 3D was, and in most cases still is, a gimmicky, quick cash grab. It didn't seem to be anything serious until the release of "Avatar" in 2009, which was the first movie to be filmed with 3D cameras. Up until that point, all 3D movies had been converted into the next dimension, which is not particularly visually appealing. While this method is still used today, the majority of 3D movies are now filmed with the special cameras.

Despite the fact that 3D is getting better, it may already be too late for the industry. Back in September, Sony Pictures, distributor of the "Spider-Man" films, announced that they would no longer be paying for glasses to be distributed to theaters showing their films in 3D. There are a number of reasons as to why Sony made this decision. First, the price of the 3D glasses is included in movie ticket prices. Currently, it stands at an average of 50 cents per ticket. This is below cost value, as the studios make up for the difference, while the theaters take all of the profit for themselves. Not only are studios putting in extra money for 3D cameras or conversions, but they're also losing money by supplying the glasses that most people don't reuse or care about. The reason why moviegoers should care is because this could mean another potential price hike not only for 3D films, but also for regular movies. The average ticket price ranges from \$11 to about \$15, while the average 3D movie is between \$16 and \$19 (depending on if it is digital 3D or IMAX 3D). This means that to see a regular movie, it could cost as much as \$17 to \$20, and that's only for two dimensions.

Rumors have already started about other studios following Sony's lead. Some of the suggested remedies for theaters involve making it mandatory for theaters to recycle and disinfect 3D glasses, or selling special glasses for as much as up to \$60. This is a large blow to 3D, which is already in trouble. Most moviegoers have been avoiding these films because of the ticket prices, and also because they say the effects give them headaches.

The next year could possibly make or break 3D in both film and in general. If the interest in 3D ends in Hollywood, that lack of interest could carry over to the 3D TVs, computers, and video games... but it could also mean a return to normalcy in ticket prices. All we can do is wait and see.

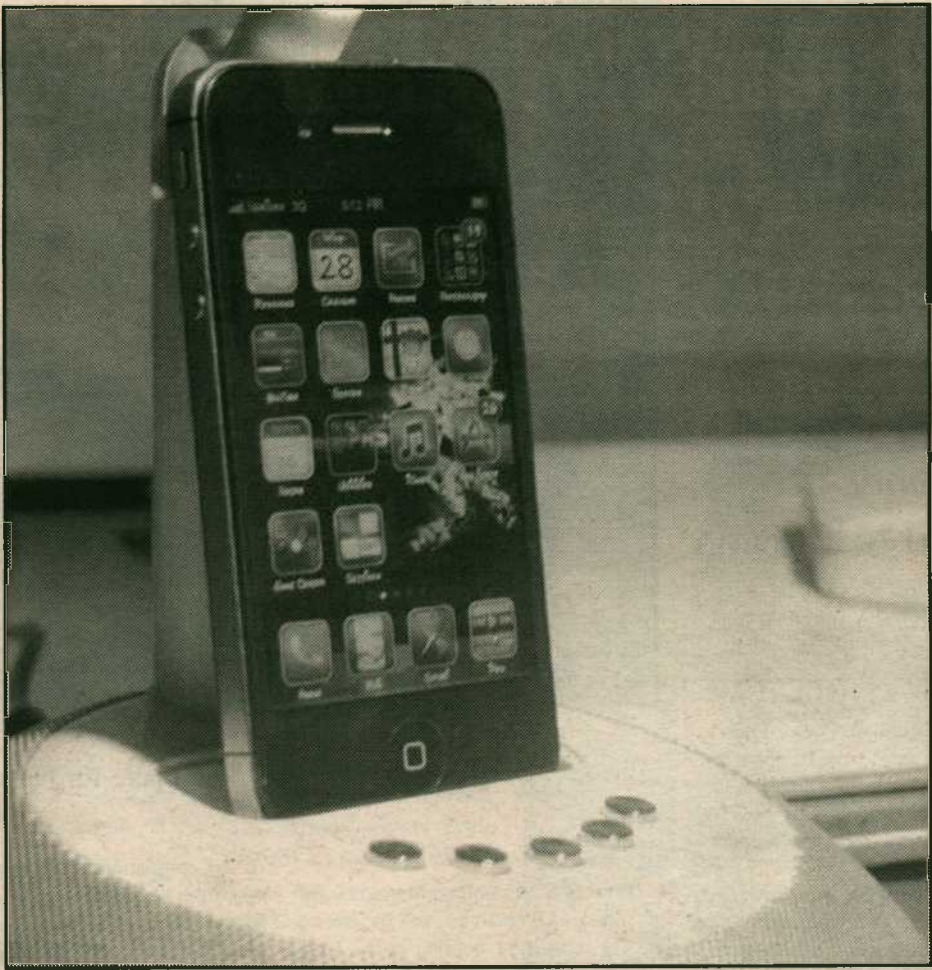


Photo Credit: Robert Jurman

The iPhone 4S may look like the iPhone 4, but only on the outside.

## The iPhone 4S? The Right Phone 4 Us.

By Tony Wu

"Sorry folks, no iPhone 5...yet..." was reported by Engadget liveblog on Oct. 4th 2011. It was the summary reaction of all tech news and websites after the Apple's latest "Let's Talk iPhone" conference. Apple did not bring us the iPhone 5, but Tim Cook, the new CEO of Apple Inc. after Steve Jobs' passing, gave us the new generation "iPhone 4S", which was called "the most amazing iPhone ever."

Although there were many updates to this iPhone 4S, the post-announcement Apple Inc. stock price dip clearly shows that investors and markets were disappointed that Apple did not release the iPhone 5.

Let's take a quick view of the pros and cons of the iPhone 4S:

### Pros:

**A5 Chip** - This is a totally new chip from Apple. It's up to 2x faster than before, with dual-core graphics, which are said to be 7x faster than the previous iPhone, allowing you to run 3D games with better picture quality. The A5 chip also helps the iPhone 4S to run Siri, which is the phone's new voice assistant.

**More Battery Life** - The iPhone 4S has up to an hour more talk time than its predecessor, the iPhone 4, and up to three hours more talk time than the iPhone 3GS.

**Better Camera** - The iPhone 4 featured a 5-megapixel camera capable of producing 720p 30fps HD video. In the iPhone 4S, Apple uses the 8-megapixel (3264 x 2448) camera, allowing it to record 1080p 30fps HD videos. Apple claims the new camera performs 33 percent faster than the iPhone 4's camera, and the A5 processor has a built-in image processor that adds face detection. 1080p HD video is amazing, but the bad thing is that there is no option to record in a smaller size. Truly, the 1080p is better than 720p, but who always needs to record the video in high resolution? Have you ever tried uploading a minute-long 1080p video to YouTube over 3G? It is excruciatingly slow. Hopefully, Apple will notice

this problem, and make some updates in iOS.

**iOS5** - The iOS5 is not a new thing. At the beginning of the year, Steve Jobs introduced this amazing operating system. iOS 5 has over 200 new features including the notice system, newsstand, and the iCloud, which takes data from the iPhone, copies it automatically, and allows you to never lose information.

**Siri** - Siri is the new voice assistant. Some Android users might say that Siri is similar to features on their phones, but in fact, Siri is smarter. If you want to know further details of Siri, please refer to the respective article in this issue.

**Price** - The price is still the iPhone's advantage. Apple continues to use the low price plan. The iPhone 4S costs \$199 for the 16GB model, \$299 for 32 GB, and \$399 for 64 GB. The 8 GB iPhone 4 is on the market at \$99, and the iPhone 3GS stays on the market at a price point of \$0, with the only point-of-sale cost being in the wireless contract.

### Cons:

Before the event, most people thought that Apple would give us the newly designed iPhone, which has a bigger screen and a beautiful case. However, Apple followed the iPhone 4 designing, using the exact same screen. We hope that we can see the totally new iPhone in the next year, complete with new design, better screen, etc.

The iPhone 4S still doesn't support 4G, but maybe Apple thinks the technology of 4G is not mature enough. Apple Inc. is still a precision company, and will not take risks to be on top of the latest features.

The Chinese website Weibo, which is the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, said that iPhone 4S means "iPhone for Steve." Although Jobs has left us forever, Apple is still in existence. Will we see the better products in future? Probably. Let's wait for Apple to change our world again.

## Why We Should Take 'Siri' Seriously

By Jessica Jacobbe

Can you remind me to buy milk tomorrow? Do I need an umbrella today? Within a few seconds, Siri will have an answer to any of those questions. With the recent release of the iPhone 4S, Apple users around the world have been transfixed with their new digital assistant. No longer will you forget to buy a present for Mom on her birthday, or wonder how many days until Christmas. Siri is now on hand for just about anything.

While Siri may seem new and exciting to many, the company has been around since 2007 as a voice-recognition app. However, it only became popular after Apple bought the company in 2010, and revealed that the application will be integrated into the latest iPhone.

As many have had bad experiences with voice-recognition machines in the past, Apple is best known for having its customers use their products with ease and without frustration. Siri's design allows it to be used as an assistant, and spoken to conversationally. Users will no longer aggravate themselves by enunciating every single syllable to get what they need done.

What makes Siri different from voice-dictation apps on any other phone is its ability to retrieve details from your e-mail, SMS, calendar, the web, and all of the information stored on your device. Because Siri is built into the iPhone 4S's software, Apple brings your entire digital world together, allowing Siri to access more information to give you answers. For example, if your friend texts you to ask if you are free for lunch on Thursday, you can ask Siri if you have any classes during that time. Siri will respond by checking your calendar, and if you are free, she can then give you a list of restaurants in the area.

With the addition of Siri, the new iPhone has become more than just a phone. It has become a virtual home engaged with a personal assistant. Still in its beta version, Siri will become more ingenious as the program furthers in development.



## Remembering Wheldon



By John Rizzo

On Sunday, October 16, Dan Wheldon died in a massive, fiery wreck at the Las Vegas Indy 300. A skilled driver who immigrated to the United States from his native England with hopes of winning the Indianapolis 500, which he did twice, in 2005 and in 2011. Wheldon was 33 years old and one of the most well-liked drivers in the ring.

Wheldon considered the Indy 500 "the biggest sporting event in the world," and his second and final win there came in an unanticipated manner. He was left to finish second for the third straight year, as he kept trailing rookie JR Hildebrand with only one turn remaining. Just moments away from what seemed like a particular victory, Hildebrand brushed the wall to give Wheldon one of the luckiest breaks ever at the Brickyard. Next, he crossed the line in front to make the final lap, the only one he had led in the entire race.

Unfortunately, the "unexpected" that he had predicted in his comment after he had won the first Indy race had obviously now been his tragic death in Las Vegas. At the beginning of the race, Wheldon started last in the 34-car field and was up to 24th quickly; yet he was still well behind the first wave of cars that got into trouble on the crucial lap. He had no way to avoid the wrecks in front of him, and there was no time to brake or steer out of trouble. His car sailed into the fence extending high over the track barrier, and his death was announced about two hours later.

AP News notes on Wheldon highlight the most notable details about his life: "Wheldon began driving go-karts as a 4-year-old, and racing was a constant in his life as he attended school in England as a child, winning eight British national titles along the way. He moved to the U.S. in 1999, trying to find sponsor money to fund his dream, and by 2002 - after stints in some lower-profile open-wheel series, such as the F2000 championship, Toyota Atlantic Series and IndyLights - he was on the IndyCar grid for the first time."

## National Treasure

The SJC Dance Diamonds are headed to Florida

By Catherine Muldoon

The SJC Diamonds Dance Team has been around for nearly 10 years now. In that time, they have performed at Madison Square Garden, the Izod Center, and have made appearances at the New England Dance Championship. They also take an active part in community involvement, where they perform at fundraising events such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. The team has been run by Nicola O'Connor and Linda Laquidara (both SJC Alumni) for the past 4 years, and is currently led by their captain, Senior Kelly Hartney.

During an annual trip to UDA (Universal Dance Association) Spirit Camp this past August, the team qualified for College Nationals, the first time in SJC's history. They brought a home routine to camp, and competed against several other schools. After receiving a 3rd place finish, they were automatically qualified for Nationals. The 2012 College Cheerleading & Dance Team National Championship will be held in Orlando, Florida from January 13 to



Photo Credit: Robert Napolitano

The SJC Dance Team is ready to compete for National gold.

the 15th.

It takes a lot of effort to prepare for a national competition, and the Dance Team is holding nothing back. They practice three days a week for two hours each day. They also meet up at least once a week during Common Hour to review. Tuesday and Wednesday nights, they rehearse routines for any upcoming performances and basketball games. Sunday practices are dedicated solely to rehearsing for Nationals.

At the beginning of the school year, the team had Madison Albanese, a professional choreographer, come to teach them a new routine, one worthy

of the competition. She came all the way from California, and together they worked for over 16 hours in one weekend. In order to prevent other schools from finding out what the routine is,

they cannot reveal the song or any other details until after Nationals. Sophomore Danielle Endes said that they "are working on our technique, flexibility, and dancing as one."

The cost of sending the team to Nationals is no light expense, and the team is working hard to fundraise. They are having bake sales, t-shirt sales, and a birthday board raffle. They plan to have a movie night in the red room on November 16th. On Decem-

ber 7th, they are having a spirit night where family and friends can come see them perform all of their dances for a small fee. Additionally, on December 3rd from 8-10 a.m., they are having a pancake breakfast for \$10, along with a special guest in attendance. They are also asking businesses to sponsor them, and in return, they will put their logo on t-shirts worn at events throughout the community.

The team has come a long way in the past ten years, and they are not slowing down any time soon. The girls are managing long practice hours, busy school schedules, and countless fundraising efforts. They are having a huge year, and they are certainly making the best of it. Be sure to go to all the basketball home games to watch them perform, and see why they deserve to be on the National stage.

## Mets/Yankees Off-season Previews

By Mike Panico

Even as we watched the Texas Rangers and St. Louis Cardinals slug it out for the World Series, baseball in New York was far from over, as baseball in New York is never truly "over". As soon as the Yankees had a disappointing early exit in the playoffs, there has been speculation on which they are going to bring in. The Mets' future has been speculated since early on in the season, when it appeared they would clearly be out of it for much of 2011.

As for the Yankees, there is, as usual, much speculation on what moves they will make. First off, they need starting pitching. The odds of them getting another year of decent production from Bartolo Colon and Freddy Garcia are not very good. Some pitchers that could be going their way are Roy Oswalt,

"He (Burnett) pitched one good game, big deal. What about the other ones?"

John Danks, Ricky Nolasco, and Wandy Rodriguez. Highly prized prospect Jesus Montero could be on the trading block, possibly in a deal for Felix Hernandez. CJ Wilson is also a free agent, but may be harder to get depending on the outcome of the World Series. The Yankees were able to re-sign CC Sabathia to a five year extension. Without him, their rotation would have been in shambles. Nova really improved, but he isn't a number 1 yet, and A.J. Burnett needs to learn how to pitch. Phil Hughes needs to do a bit more work to get back to his old self, and they need to bring in at least 1 other big arm. I personally do not have a huge issue with A-Rod, but I feel like Burnett needs to go. He pitched one good game, big deal. What about the other ones? I would just release him, or sit him on the bench and pay him to send a message. I'm sure the Yankees will be fine, because the odds of two straight off seasons without getting their way are very bad.

For the Mets, they need quite a bit of work. The big story is that Jose Reyes could possibly leave them for a better team who can afford to pay him, as the Madoff Scandal is still affecting them. There is also a lot of talk about them being open



Photo Credit: Spirit Staff

The outfield walls at Citi Field will have markedly different dimensions in the 2012 season.

about trading their savior, David Wright. They may finally give up on him, even though when he is playing in a ballpark that isn't pitcher friendly he is a very good player. They need to do something about Jason Bay. He was always overrated, and they took one big year as a sign that he would be great, but he has been struggling. The new changes to Citi Field could definitely play a role in their off-season. Different walls will be brought in, which could play to the hitters' advantage. David Wright may be

able to play better, and maybe Jason Bay could put up Fenway-type numbers. This may not affect whether or not the Mets will dump salary due to their financial troubles. Their young players got some experience last season, so hopefully they could turn that experience into something special.

Despite troubles for both New York teams, both will be having very exciting off seasons. There is never a dull moment when it comes to New York baseball, so be ready for a crazy winter!